

VILLAGE OF WRIGHTSTOWN
BOARD MEETING MINUTES

The regular bi-monthly meeting of the Village Board of Trustees, of the Village of Wrightstown, was held in the Community Room at Wrightstown Village Hall, 352 High St., Wrightstown, WI, 54180, on **Tuesday, May 16, 2023**, and convened at 6:49 p.m. at the conclusion of the Committee of the Whole meeting.

Roll Call: Present – Village President Dean Erickson; Trustees Sue Byers, Mark Leonard, Andy Lundt, Dan Segerstrom, Terry Schaeuble and Julie Sigmund

Also present: Brian Roebke (Wrightstown Spirit); Administrator Travis Coenen; Public Works Director Andy Vickman; Clerk/Treasurer Michelle Seidl; Fire Chief Mike Schampers; Fire Inspector Nathan Helbing; Police Chief Greg Deike; Residents Jane Cotter, Tony Decker, Sue Frank, Peter Helander, Kathryn Lich, Brad Sigmund and Keith Wendlandt; Jason Gerend from the Town of Buchanan

MINUTES – Motion made by Trustee A Lundt with a second made by Trustee D Segerstrom to approve the Tuesday, May 2, 2023 Village Board Meeting Minutes, as submitted. **Motion carried.**

VOUCHERS – Motion made by Trustee S Byers with a second made by Trustee T Schaeuble to approve the vouchers from April 27, 2023 through May 10, 2023 totaling \$409,318.35. **Motion carried.**

SCHEDULED APPEARANCES: None

WALK INS:

Resident Tony Decker, 38 Golden Wheat Lane, thanked the Village Board for sharing information about the school district's prepayment of debt service and property tax increases. A similar issue was experienced in the State of California, resulting in the PROP 13 law being passed in 1978. This regulation limits the amount that property taxes can be increased on an annual basis. If the Wrightstown School District does not control rising tax obligation, people with little discretionary income will be forced out of their homes.

Mr. Decker also inquired of the outdoor amenities that are to be added to the apartment development on Cty Hwy U.

Administrator Travis Coenen responded that some amenities, such as gathering rooms and pickle ball courts, were included in the construction site plan although he was unable to remember the specific details.

Resident Sue Frank, 234 Burning Tree Ct., shared that questions are being asked as to where all of the tax money being collected in the community is being spent. She asked who authorizes and audits purchases that are being made and why excess funds are not being returned to citizens. She would like to see total transparency in these things.

Trustee Sue Byers, with confirmation by Administrator Travis Coenen, responded that joint meetings with Wrightstown School Board have been requested so questions about spending on both sides can be

answered. However, there is hesitation on behalf of the School Board to participate. Both the Village of Wrightstown and Wrightstown School District are required, by statute, to have annual audits completed. No concern has been expressed to the School Board regarding operational/student expenses, only the about the decision to prepay the bonding. School district budget and spending records are available on the Department of Public Instruction website and can also be requested directly from Wrightstown School District Administration by completing an open records request. The Village of Wrightstown 2023 budget and prior spending is available at www.wrightstown.us Current year financials can be provided by calling the Clerk/Treasurer's office.

Trustee Andy Lundt reminded residents that voicing concerns directly to the elected officials that represent them is an important factor in how officials vote on issues. He urged the community to address the school board during their meetings, to inform them.

President Erickson made clear that there is no belief of corruption taking place within the school board/administration. The only question is the reason behind the rapid pay down of existing debt, especially in the current economy.

Ms. Frank responded that she believes that if excess funds were collected by the school district, those funds should have been returned to the taxpayers.

Residents were again urged to attend the next school board meeting, which is scheduled for Wednesday May 17th starting at 6:00 p.m., and reminded to sign up if they wish to speak for 3 minutes. Regular meetings are normally scheduled for the third Wednesday of each month and can be attended virtually by emailing, so a link can be sent.

Resident Keith Wendlandt, 562 Royal St. Pat's Dr., attended his first school board meeting on Wednesday, April 19, 2023. Although he was aware that issues he presented would not be responded to, he was disappointed to learn that a time limit had been put in place to control negative concerns. It was also very distressing to be interrupted every 15 seconds, after the 2:00 minute mark, to be given a time update.

On Friday, April 21st, Mr. Wendlandt submitted a 4-page letter directed to all Wrightstown School Board Members, and the District Administrator, asking for answers on (9) nine specific questions. Three weeks and two reminders later, a response was received from District Administrator Carla Buboltz declining to answer. She did, however, indicate that a sit down meeting could be scheduled with herself and School Board President Nicole Gerend. The fear in doing so, though, is that a response to include thoughts from individual board members will not be received. There is no value in getting information from sources that are not trusted. School administration refuse to provide school board member contact phone numbers so questions can be asked directly.

Trustee Dan Segerstrom advised residents to continue asking questions and expressing concerns at the school board meetings

Administrator Coenen urged Village Board Members and residents to please meet with the school administration if invited.

Trustee Julie Sigmund noted that there is an error on the school district website as incorrect email addresses are attached to member's names and to please watch for this if attempting contact.

CORRESPONDENCE: Two letters of complaint were received from resident Peter Helander, 1041 Crestview Dr., regarding the short term rental property at 1037 Crestview Dr.

As of the date of this Village Board meeting, a short term rental license has not yet been applied for by rental owners Michael and Juliana VanLaanen. Due to the number of complaints already received, a license denial may be advisable.

Administrator Coenen noted the current violations of the Village Municipal Code for 1037 Crestview Dr.

1. Property is being rented with a 2 (two) day minimum vs. the (7) day minimum required
2. Short term rental application, application for tax license, property manager application and fees have not been submitted along with a copy of VanLaanen's seller's permit, employer identification number information, a copy of the rental license from Brown County, proof of insurance, structure floor and property site plans
3. Village building and fire inspections have not been completed on the structure
4. Village has not been notified of first day of rental for the purpose of annual tracking
5. Illegal drug use has been observed on the premise

Because the Village was waiting on quarterly reporting statements from Outagamie County, and information regarding the processing of room tax collected, follow up on short term rental ordinance violations was slow.

Neighbors of the 1037 Crestview property have been advised to contact the Police Department if further illegal activity or nuisance violations are observed.

Trustee Sue Byers believes that an application for a short term rental for this property should be denied and will not vote for approval if/when it is presented to the Village Board of Trustee.

Currently, there is a civil suit filed by Pamela M. Helander Revocable Trust against Wallace & Marilyn Maynard and Michael & Julianna VanLaanen in regards to an easement down to the river on the neighboring property at 1041 Crestview Dr.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

- Going to bid for pond reconfiguration on Quality Ct., as part of the Alliance Rail project, and for the Alliance Rail project itself. Board approval will be moved on during the second meeting in June
- Thank you to the Clerk/Treasurer's office for hosting the BINGO Bash on Tuesday, May 9th. 85 people attended! Special thanks go out to Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Shelia Bowers for organizing and set up and to The Pizza Shoppe (Horkman's) for supplying the pizza!
- Met with School Board President Nicole Gerend and Business Manager Dan Storch to discuss community financials. During the meeting, the request was made to have the Village Board and School Board set up a time to discuss community objectives and determine the direction of tax impact on property owners since the new budget season has started

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE/PERSONNEL

- **Police Officer Amanda Alberts Transition to Full Time Status** - Motion made by Trustee S Byers with a second made by Trustee A Lundt to approve moving part-time Officer Amanda Alberts to a full-time position, starting in June 2023, due to the vacancy left by the resignation of full-time Officer Bret VandeHey. Officer Alberts will be celebrating her one year anniversary with the Village of Wrightstown on Tuesday, June 6th. Also, congratulations to Aaron and Amanda on the birth of their daughter on April 21st. **Motion carried.**
- **(Part of) VW-195 & (Part of) VW-203 Land Purchase** – Motion made by Trustee S Byers with a second made by Trustee T Schaeuble to approve the purchase of .272 acres (part) of Village of Wrightstown parcel VW-195 and .208 acres (part) of Village of Wrightstown parcel VW-203, owned by Anthony R. VanRossum, to allow for ditching along Poplar Street. Funding for the purchase was included in the 2023A bonding. Call of roll: 6 yes votes. (Trustee Mark Leonard temporarily left the meeting.) **Motion carried.**

PARKS, RECREATION AND REGIONAL PLANNING

- **Verizon Site Plan Application** – Motion made by Trustee Terry Schaeuble with a second made by Trustee D Segerstrom to approve the Site Plan Application for Verizon, 600 High Street (Wrightstown High School), Parcel VW-W26, Village of Wrightstown, contingent on annual inspections. **Motion carried.**

Trustee Julie Sigmund asked Planner Michael Leidig from Robert E. Lee about the possible health risks of having an antenna in close proximity to the High School. He responded that he is unaware of any potential threat that a cell tower poses and that construction has to meet OSHA standards. In the event that requirements of the conditional approval are not complied with, or health risks come to light, approval can be revoked.

PUBLIC SAFETY

- **Fire Department**
 - 7 new volunteers have been added to the staff in the last 9 months!

Trustee Andy Lundt commented positively on the posted social media staff spotlights.

- **Police Department**
 - Drug takeback day was on Saturday, April 22nd. Over (8) eight lbs. of unused medications have been collected since October of 2022
 - Officer Schultz has completed his field training and is now working independently
 - This week is National Police Week. It is a good time to remember Officers that lost their lives in the line of duty. So far in 2023, 4 officers have been killed. Bands are being worn around shields as a show of respect
 - Calls for mental health issues have significantly increased. Staff are spending extreme amounts of time getting these situations under control and finding adequate facilities to help. Resources have been added to the Village website for county and national hotline assistance
 - Enrollment in college law enforcement programs are increasing

PUBLIC WORKS

- Chipper is back in service due to a vehicular collision in July of 2022. \$7,000 in repairs were covered by insurance

- Offers were extended for both open public works/utilities positions. Verbal acceptances have been received and background checks and pre-employment screenings are in progress. Action for employment approval will be taken at the June 6th Village Board Meeting

ADJOURN – Motion made by Trustee S Byers with a second made by Trustee J Sigmund to adjourn the meeting at 7:51 p.m. **Motion carried.**

Michelle Seidl

Clerk/Treasurer

Posted: 06/07/2023 MS